Articles to be inquired of the Clergie:

Set foorth by the Reuerend Father in God, Thomas Bishop of Lincoln, in his first visitation for his Diocesse.

Anno Domini.

1571.

Imprinted at London, in Fleet-streete, by Rafe Newbery.

Articles.

THE Irſt whether your Perſons, Vicars and Curates, do ſay their diuine ſeruice in their Churches at due howres, and conuenient times, and alſo doo reuerently miniſter the Sacraments to their Pariſhoners according to the booke of Common Praier, ſet out by common auctoritie, of the Parliament of this Realme.

2. Item, whether they do exerciſe themſelues in godly ſtudie of the holy Scriptures, and in vertuous bringing vp of youth, as in teaching of them the Cathechiſme, and other Godly exerciſes from time, to time, or no.

3. Item, whether they do decently and orderly go in their apparel, according to the boke of Aduertiſements, lately ſet fourth in that behalfe.

4. Item, whether they or any of them do frequent or vſe, any Tauerne, Alehouſe, or any other ſuſpected houſe, or do vſe vnlawfull Huntinge and Hawkinge contrary to the Eccleſiaſticall law and their order.

5. Item, whether they be reſidente vppon their benefices and maintoine Hoſpitality, to their hability, and whether they haue moe benefices then one, and whether their houſes and Chauncels be in ſufficient reparacion.

6. Item, whether ſuch as be abſente from their benefices, do leaue ſufficient Curates in their places, and whither any of them do ſerue two Cures, without ſpeciall licence of the Ordinary.

7. Item, whether any of them do diſcourage any perſon from the reading of any part of the Bible, either in Latin or Engliſh, and do not rather comfort, and exhorte euery perſon to the reading of the ſame, at conuenient times, as the eternall worde of God, the true fode of Mans ſoule.

8. Item, whether they haue admitted any man to Preache in their Cures not being lawfully licenced, or haue refuſed and denied ſuch to preache as haue ben licenced accordingly.

9. Item, whether they do vſe to pray for the Quenes Maieſty in their Churches, and exhorte the people to obedience of her grace, and other Magiſtrates being in auctority vnder her.

10. Item, whether they exhorte their Pariſhioners to receaue

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the holy Communion, at the leaſt fowre times in the yeare, and whether they preſume to miniſter the ſame to any perſon that is out of Charitie or infamed with any notorious Crime.

11. Item, whether they haue their foure quarter Sermons by ſuch as be licenced to preache, and whether they do reade once in the yeare vpon ſome ſolemne day in their Church openly, when the moſt reſorte of people ſhalbe preſent, the Confeſſion and articles agreed vpon by the Reuerende Father in God the Archbiſhop of Canterbury, and Yorke, and other Biſhoppes of this Realme.

12. Item, whether your Parſons and Vicars be married or no, and if they be not, whether they kepe in their houſes any ſuſpected Wemen, vnder the name and colour of their Butlers, Kinſwomen, or otherwaies.

13. Item, whether they or any of them haue any ſedicious bookes priuily, or openly, lately ſet forth by Doctor Harding & other his complices, enimies of Gods true Religion, and to their Natiue Countrey, or if any of them do ſupporte, maiteyne, or ſuccoure, the ſaide Doctor Hardinge, or any of his Complices with money or otherwaies whereas they be in the partes beyond the Seas.

14. Item, whether they do diſtinctly and ſincerely reade the homilies ſet forthe by the Quenes Maieſties authority vppon the Sondayes, and Holidayes, when there is no Sermon, and whether they do viſite the ſicke, in exhortinge them to conſider the power, and other Charitable dedes.

15. Item, that no Miniſter in the Miniſtration of the holy Sacramentes ſhall vſe any Popiſhe or ſuperſticious Garment, ſauing that kinde of Garmente, as ſhall be appointed by common authority or by the Biſhoppe of the Dioces and whether they receaue any to be Godfathers or Godmothers that haue not receiued the Communion or no.

16. Item, whether your Parſons, Vicars, or Curates, do vſe to tole any Bell in the time of Lent as to confeſſion in the Popiſhe time, whether their tables be hanged like Aultars or no, & whether they baptiſe any Children on the Workenday (or no) and bid and keepe any other holy dayes and faſting dayes then which are appoynted by the Booke.

17. Item, whether any of them do go in their Surpleſſes in the

Rogation weeke, and whether they do read the Quenes Maiesties Iniunctions quarterly or no.

18. Item, whether they deliuer the holy Sacramente of the Lordes supper to their people rather into their mouthes, then into their handes, and whether they or any of them do whisper or breathe ouer the Breade in the time of consecration or no.

19. Item, whether they do kepe the order for the bringing of the Coarse to the Buriall according to the Booke, &c.

20. Item, whether they do visit the sicke, and impotent persons, to comforte them in the time of their sickneſſe, with necessary Doctrine out of the holy Scriptures necessary for that purpose.

Articles to be inquired of the Laytie.

FIRST whether you haue the Bible of the greatest volume, the booke of common Prayer set forth by authority of Parliament, the Paraphrase, both partes of the homilies, the Psalter, and other bookes, necessary according to the Quenes Maiesties Iniunctions.

2. Item, whether there be a comly desent framed Communion table, with a Carpet to the same, according to the order of a boke set forth in that behalfe, and also a conuenient Pulpit, set vp in such place of the Churche as Gods word may be best heard out of it.

3. Item, whether any in your Parish do depraue or dispraise the booke of Common Praier, set forth by authority of Parliament, or speake against the homilies, or do maintaine or holde any erronious opinions, contrary to the worde of God, and the lawes of the Realme.

4. Item, whether any man do stubbernly contemne or dispise the order of Administration of the holy Sacraments set forth in the English tongue and do obstinately refuse to receaue the holie Communion at the least foure times in the yeare.

5. Item, whether any man doth absent him selfe from diuine seruice in the holy daies without lawfull and iust cause, and if such do, whether the Churchewardens do leuie by the way of distresse the penalty, according to the statute, and put the same in the poore mans Bore.

Item

Item yf any hyringe or benefice of the yerely value of xxli being not resident of the same doth distribute the xthe pte of his benefice according to the statute

Item yf any hyringe spirituall pmotions to the yerely value of xxli be geven by wrte whether they have not pformed to the maintenance of scholer in the comon schole & according to the statute

Item whether you be knowe of any that have bought their benefice or elles come to the same by symonie or by any other unlawfull meane

Item whether you be know any that do make any privy contracte of matrymonie not callinge sufficient witnes thereunto or any that have been maried without bannes askinge thrise tymes within the p[ar]ishe church

Item how many have died sithe the feaste of the nativitie of o[ur] lord laste paste whether they died testate or intestate, and who they were and what their names be

Item whether any p[er]son or vicar doth expounde the scriptures in homelies and the gospell after he or they have redd them in the church without lawfull cause or no

6. Item, whether there be any within your Parishe that doth not reuerently vse the ministers, or whether there be any common swearers, seditious slaunderers of their neighbours, or hauters of any Alehouses, in the time of diuine seruice, or any walkers, Janglers, or Talkers, that disturbeth the minister in the time of diuine seruice.

7. Item whether there be any whoremongers, adulterers, or any that do vse any sorcery, inchauntmentes, or witchcraftes, or vehemently suspected of naughty liuinge, within your Parish or no.

8. Item, whether all monumentes of Superstition be defaced and taken downe within your churches, or whether any do vse to pray vpon Beades, the Latin Primmer, or other superstitious bookes, or kepe any superstitious Reliques, as Vestimentes, Albes, Banner clothes and such like, in their houses, or other places or no.

9. Item, whether your Chalices being mere monuments of the Popishe Masse, and Popishe Religion, be translated and conuerted, into decent and comely Communion Cuppes, and the same to be siluer at the least accordinge to the value of they' Chalices or no,

10. Item whether your Churches be in sufficient repaire and the Churche yardes well fensed, and kepte from Swine, and other filthy beastes.

11. Item, whether there hath bene any Fraye made in your Churches or Churche yardes, to the disturbance of Gods seruice, and to the euill example of the rest of the Parish, you shall present by whom, when, and after what sort.

12. Item, whether there be any Scholemaisters, within your Parishes that do teache any Grammer schole either priuately or openly, how long they haue taught, and what their names be.

13. Item, whether there be any Legacies withholden giuen to the Churche, or otherwaies, by ỳ Testatours, in whose hands it is, by whom it is geuen, and by whom it is withholden.

14. Item, whether Collection be made for the poore accordinge to the Statute, and the same distributed and accompted for accordyng to the same Statute, and whether any man refuseth to geue to the poore accordingly.

15. Item, whether any do stubbornely refuse to bryng theyr Children to the Minister on the holydayes to learne the Catechisme or no.

16. Item, whether your Churchwardens do truly administer the goodes of the Churche, and make a true accompte of their office, and chose new at the least once euery yere.

17. Item whether any man hath put away his wife, or any wife absent her selfe from her husband, without iust cause, or any that hath married within the degrees Leuiticall and other orders within this Realme set forth in that behalfe.

18. Item, whether any do violate or breake the Saboth day and holly daies with their manuall labour, and do keepe open their shops, alehouses, and other tiplinge houses, in the time of diuine seruice.

19. Item whether ther be a conuenient chest for the poore mans box and whither there be a Register boke kept of all those that be Christened, maried, and buried.

20. Item, whether any within your Parish haue any seditious bokes lately set forth from beyonde the seas or that secretly do hide Monumentes, of Popishe Reliques, as Images, and suche like.

21. Item, whether the Churchewardens haue prouided the Postels of S. Becon, as it was geuen them in a charge at the visitacion or no.

¶ Iniunctions of the Reuerende Father in God Thomas by the sufferaunce of God byſhop of Lincolñ giuen in his firſt viſitation, Anno Domini. 1571. to be obſerued within the Dioces of Lincolñ.

FIRST that the common prayer be ſayd or ſonge decently and diſtinctly in ſuch place of the Churche accordinge to the largeneſſe and ſtraightneſſe of the Church and Quire, ſo that the people may be moſt edefied.

2. Item, that your miniſters ſhall go in decent and comely apparell, as alſo ſhall ſay the Diuine ſeruice appointed, and miniſter the holy Sacraments, within their Churches in decente apparell and to vſe no Copes, vnleſſe it be in Cathedrall and Collegiate churches, accordinge as it is ſet forthe by a booke called the aduertiſements.

3. Item the pariſh ſhall prouide a decent communion table vpon a Frame with a comely Carpette to the ſame at their coſtes and charges as they will anſwere to the contrarie for theyr doynges.

4. Item, the churchwardens ſhall ſearche the Tauernes, Alehouſes, and other tipling houſes, to ſe whether any perſon be ther drinking or playing at any vnlawfull game, in the time of diuine ſeruice, and they to preſent their names, and the names of them that kepe the ſaid houſes.

5. Item, the churchwardens ſhall make their accompte yearely of their offices in the preſence of the Miniſtre and the other of the Pariſh, and immediatly vpon the ſame accompt finiſhed to chuſe new from yeare to yeare.

6. Item, none ſhalbe admitted to be Godfathers or Godmothers, vnleſſe they haue receiued the bleſſed Communion.

7. Item, that on the Sundayes and Holydaies, ther be no ſhops open, nor Artificers commonly goinge aboute their worldly affayres, and that in all Fayres and common Markets, falling vpon the Sonday or Holidaies, there be no ſhewing of wares, before the ſeruice be don.

8. Item, that the Miniſters ſhall ſuffer none to preache within their cures, vnleſſe he be able to ſhew ſom ſufficient licence from the Biſhoppe of the Diocelle, or other that haue authoritie to licence the ſame.

9. Item, no Prieſte nor Lay man ſhalbe admitted or ſuffered

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to kepe any Grammer schole openly or privately within this Diocesse, except he be alowed and licenced by the Bishop or his Officers.

10. Item, the Pitticers shall call vpon their Parishoners to receaue the blessed communion, at the least foure times in the yere and also shall call vpon their Parishioners to send their children to the church to learne the Cathechisme, vpon the Sondaies and other conuenient times.

11. Item, your Parsons and Vicars shall not suffer nor admitte, any straunge Curate comminge out of any other Diocesse, to serue within their cures, without he be first licenced by the Bishoppe or his Officers.

12. Item, that no man shall enterprise nor presume to ring nor Jangle any Belles vppon all Halowen daie, or in the night of the same day, superstitiously or Popishly, as they haue bene accustomed to do, otherwaies then to call the people to Diuine Seruice.

13. Item, that none of your Parsons, Vicars, nor Curates, shall minister the holly communion, to any Forener or straunger, cõming out of any other Diocesse, or from any other Parish, within this Diocesse, without the speciall licence of my Lorde, or his officers, or the Minister of that place, from whence the said forener or straunger shall come.

14. Item that no Parson, Vicar, nor Curate shall minister to any person or persons, the holy Sacraments in any other church or churches, at any time or times, but in their owne, without the speciall requeste of the Parson, or Vicar of the sayde Parish.

15. Item, no man shal kepe any superstticious or erroneous boke of late come from beyonde the Seas, and set forthe by Doctor Harding and other his complices, but the same shall bringe forth and reueale before the Bishop and other his officers according to the Quænes Maiesties proclamacion set forth in that behalfe.

16. Item, that euery weeke or euery fortnight at the least they shall reade openly in their churches the proclamation sette out of late by the Quæne her Maiesty for the callinge in of bookes of sedicion to be deliuered to the ordinarie according to the Tenor and meaning of the said proclamacion.

God saue the Queene.